

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

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Our character is but the stamp on our souls of the free choice of good and evil we have made through life.—Gickie.

OPPORTUNITY.

The new municipal administration begins its two-year term today under auspices that are particularly bright. It does not have to make an extraordinary record to surpass that of recent administrations and to satisfy the people generally. What Honolulu wants is an administration that does its best, its public spirited, unselfish, energetic and persistent best, to run the city decently and properly. What Honolulu wants is the emphasis placed first on efficiency and next on politics, instead of the reverse.

There has never been a time when cooperation between the city officials and the people generally was so easy to secure as it is today. Good faith and mutual respect on each side will assure that cooperation.

MAYOR LANE'S MESSAGE.

Mayor Lane's inaugural message is progressive in tone and clear in statement. With certain of his recommendations there will be some difference of opinion but with most there will be unanimity.

He urges equitable enforcement of the local improvement or frontage-tax law as a necessary feature of the good-roads campaign; steps toward a municipal hospital; a city hall; liberal city appropriations for the Promotion Committee; the extension and development of public parks and playgrounds; and in general a close attention on the part of all branches of the municipal government to prudence and economy in office.

Individual recommendations which will probably be objected to are those for separate bureaus for the waterworks and sewers and for road construction. The plan for a separate waterworks and sewers bureau has been voted down once in caucus. As the idea reappears in the mayor's message, it is rather different from the form in which it went before the caucus of supervisors-elect. The mayor recommends that the head of one of the three departments—waterworks and sewers, engineering and road construction—act as superintendent of all three. As a matter of fact, Mayor Lane's recommendation as it is contained in his message is in line with what public opinion has recently expressed—that the city engineer should be the active head of all the bureaus, though these bureaus might need a superintending official in addition to the office staff. The plan can be carried out without adding expensive salaried offices, for there are men in the bureaus now, with the possible exception of the road department, capable of taking the jobs.

The mayor's recommendation for dairy and meat inspections will probably cause the strongest objections. It appears that he is in favor of building up an extensive city inspection system. That is needless at this time and particularly unwise because of the city's financial condition. The territorial board of health is equipped to do most of the sanitary inspection and is doing most of it. For instance, though the city has a milk inspector, he is as useless as an appendix. The territorial board does all the real work. By giving the territorial board's milk inspector a city and county commission, and paying a small part of his salary, the city can get for \$20 a month inspection which will cost at least \$120 if the municipality tries to do it properly.

This matter of sanitary inspection should be given much thought. The tendency seems to be toward increasing the power of the territorial board rather than decreasing it; toward city support for the territorial organization rather than development of a separate and often conflicting city organization.

The Star-Bulletin expects Mayor Lane to be quite ready to discuss the merits or flaws in his own recommendations. In general, his message is satisfactory, and if the spirit is observed by the new administration, it should give a satisfactory account of itself to the voters who cast their ballot for an efficient conduct of Honolulu's affairs.

Peace prospects in Colorado are now fairly bright. We do not notice, however, that anybody has been punished for the killings in this bit of civil war.

THE LONGEST BATTLE.

The battle of the Aisne is the longest fight in the world's history. Next to it is the Russian border fight. While in both these there have been lulls and climaxes, in each the pressure of hostilities has never ceased for more than a month. The battle of Aisne is now nearly two months old.

Most of the famous engagements have lasted less than a day. Here are the principal ones: 1813—Leipzig. Lasted three days. French beaten by Russian, Austrian and Prussian armies.

1815—Waterloo. Lasted eighteen hours. Napoleon finally beaten by British and Prussians.

1854—Abma. Lasted three and a half hours. British and French beat Russians.

1863—Gettysburg. Lasted three days. American civil war. Indecisive battle.

1866—Sadowa. Lasted eight hours. Prussians beat Austrians.

1870—Sedan. Big fighting lasted twelve and one-half hours. Prussians beat the French.

1870—Gravelotte. Lasted nine hours. Prussians beat French.

1905—Mukden. Lasted eighteen days. Japanese beat Russians.

1912—Lule Burgas. Lasted four days. Balkan Allies beat Turks.

GIVE IT A FAIR HEARING.

For any conclusive discussion of the plan for an amusement pier at Waikiki beach, it is necessary to know what that plan is. It is necessary to know where the pier is to be started from the shore and its route to the reef; whether it will be an undesirable addition to the beach in the matter of the patronage it attracts as well as in its physical characteristics.

Offhand to condemn the amusement pier idea is neither fair nor logical. There are places on the beach where it will interfere with bathing and surfing; there are other places where it may not. And it may prove to be an excellent addition to Honolulu's amusements; it may prove an asset in the business of entertaining visitors.

If an amusement pier can be so constructed and operated that it will give additional facilities for the people of Honolulu and the people visiting Honolulu to go to the beach and get wholesome recreation there, is it to be condemned? If it will take more people to the beach, is it to be condemned? There are few enough places now of public access to Waikiki's splendid bathing. Why shut off the possibility of the pier without hearing anything about it but the name?

NO REQUIEMS.

Mayor Fern leaves office with a personal record that is clean. Whatever may be said of his picturesque characteristics and his official caliber, his honest conduct of office has not been questioned. There are few men in Honolulu or anywhere else on the islands with more personal friends than "Joe." He has many qualities to command respect and many friends to wish him well. And, by the way, this is no official requiem for Joe Fern. In 1916 he probably will be found fighting for the mayoralty with all of his undoubted shrewdness, and if Mayor Lane does not make good, Joe will very likely step back into the shoes he vacated at noon today.

When Mr. Taft said immediate independence for the Philippines would make the islands as bad as Mexico, he gave the Jones bill a solar plexus blow.

One of the benefits of the efficiency system in modern warfare is being illustrated along the Aisne, where the trench-fighters dig their own graves.

What has become of the old-fashioned man who predicted the Bull Moose would swallow the Republican party?

Secretary Bryan is horrified at the new dances. That old Chataqua hot-foot is good enough for him.

Crossing the Rubicon was mere child's play compared to the navigation of the Wyszlaewlewicz.

Welcome, Mayor Lane!

Letters or TIMELY TOPICS

(The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space for anonymous communications.)

GIVE GERMANY HER DUE.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin: Sir:—It has been voiced many times since the opening of the conflict now going on in Europe that Germany is not upholding this terrible struggle through a claim to righteousness. That question is open to debate for and against, and particularly so to the people of this territory, so far removed from the scene of conflict that they should not hurriedly decide one way or the other. We should not discuss the responsibility for the great human killing that is going on daily to determine who is right and who is wrong, but we can discuss the valor and courage that are being shown by these in the fighting lines of the countries at war.

Right or wrong it is only fair to

give the Germans their due for the resourcefulness, skill, tenacity and bravery that the men of the German army have thus far displayed, and it is to be seen that these qualities range right through from general down and on to the last man in the rank and file of that great host of fighters.

We must take war opinions on the cable reports that are received here daily, and whether good or bad there has been something glorious in the never-say-die, bulldog tenacity with which the Kaiser's men have many times turned seeming defeat into victory.

There is no question but that the German nation has kept very close to the wheels of world advancement, and the achievement of the German army thus far gives an inkling of the great strides that country has made, and this in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. And when this war is ended the same tenacity of purpose and perseverance as have been displayed in the greatest war the world has ever seen, will be continued by the German nation along peaceful and civilizing channels to again build up Germany and give assistance to the rest of Europe.

M. E.

NORDICA WILL CASE TO BRING PROBERS HERE

The death of Miss Lillian Nordica, famous singer, in the South Seas, will bring through Honolulu a commission appointed to go to Thursday Island for some investigations in the will contest case.

When the contest over the will of Miss Nordica came before the New York courts counsel moved for the appointment of a commission to go to Thursday Island, in the South Seas, to take the testimony of witnesses to the will.

Before Vice-Chancellor Stevens at Newark, William H. Osborne and Amiel Dreyfuss, counsel for Robert S. Baldwin, one of the executors of the will offered for probate in New York, applied for an injunction to restrain the Monmouth County Surrogate from probating a Nordica will offered there. The vice-chancellor ordered counsel to file briefs, but said he believed that he was without jurisdiction to restrain the Surrogate.

The issue in the will contest lies between the singer's husband, George W. Young, and her three sisters. In a will executed by her in 1910, she made her husband the chief beneficiary of her estate, and she called New Jersey her home. In a will made on Thursday Island, shortly before she died last May at Batavia on the island of Java, she made her sisters the principal beneficiaries and called New York her home. In explanation of the making of the later will Mr. Osborne said that before her death Miss Nordica turned over \$400,000 to her husband. The 1914 will was offered for probate in New York county and following these proceedings the husband offered in Monmouth the 1910 will, with a copy of the later testament attached. Mr. Osborne said that it has been impossible to get service upon Mr. Young in the New York proceedings.

PLAN REHEARSALS OF CHILDREN FOR CARNIVAL CHORUS

Miss Jane Winne, who conducted the Christmas carol singing in Honolulu a year ago, today started to make plans for the rehearsing of 2000 children who are to sing patriotic and popular airs from the steps of the capitol in connection with the Mid-Pacific Carnival next month. This is expected to be one of the most popular features of the Carnival program.

Five thousand copies of patriotic and popular songs now are being printed by the Star-Bulletin for the Carnival Company, and as soon as this work is completed the rehearsing will begin. The music being printed includes "Sail On, O Ship," 600 copies; "Processional," 1000 copies; "Disco," 800 copies; "Hawaii Hono," 600 copies; "Star-Spangled Banner," 600 copies; "The Dancers," 700 copies, and "The Sandman," 700 copies. The children will sing to the accompaniment of the Hawaiian Band and during intermissions the folk dances of various nations will be portrayed.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—W. T. RAWLINS: The Hawaii swimmers are being treated splendidly in Australia. Their arrival in Sydney was a big social event.

—C. G. BOCKUS: Our idea of an amusement pier is one that will encourage and stimulate surfing and bathing instead of putting obstacles in the way.

—HARRY MURRAY: If the frontage-tax law is generally applied, the city engineering department will have to be greatly enlarged because of the many grades to be run and large amount of statistical work to be accomplished. However, the law should be applied and I heartily favor it.

—A. L. C. ATKINSON: The building of any private pier at Waikiki out to the reef is illegal and if it goes out where I understand one is now projected, it will hurt the beach. My suggestion is that the pier be run parallel with the present concrete bridge over the stream, which faces the sea. This would be a great attraction.

—E. H. F. WOLTER: Honolulu and all Oahu needs truck farmers just about as bad as the islands need more tourists. There should be some movement towards this end. Every patch of vacant property in Oahu should be put under cultivation. That is a new industry which should receive careful consideration and which heretofore has received little or none.

WOOD SAILS NEXT WEEK TO REPRESENT HAWAII AT PANAMA-PACIFIC FAIR

To take charge of the Hawaiian building at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in the capacity of resident commissioner and representative of the Promotion Committee, H. P. Wood will leave for San Francisco on the steamer Matsenia Jan. 13. Mr. Wood was at his office this morning. He said that he is rapidly recovering from

Personal Mention

ARTHUR G. SMITH, deputy attorney general, is in Hawaii on official business.

W. J. ROBINSON, former circuit judge, sails for San Francisco tomorrow on the Sierra.

ANDREW ANDERSEN, paying teller in the Waikuku bank, has resigned his position and will leave with a few weeks for Honolulu, where he will accept a similar place in the Bank of Hawaii. Mr. and Mrs. Andersen have discontinued housekeeping and will live at the Waikuku hotel until they leave for their new home.—Maui News.

MISS RUTH LONDAHL, daughter of Chaplain Londa, U. S. A., and Lieut. William Hooper Jonett, Coast Artillery Corps, both of whom are well known here, were married a week ago in San Francisco. The ceremony took place on short notice and was attended only by a few relatives. The couple is spending the honeymoon in Palo Alto, Cal.

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his recent operation. From now until the Matsenia sails he will be busy settling up the affairs of the local office of the Promotion Committee. Mr. Wood intends to remain in San Francisco until the close of the exposition.

The business section of the village of Benton Ridge, O., was wiped out by fire.

Henry Siegel has agreed that depositors in his failed bank in Boston shall share equally with New York depositors in any payments to be made.

The police of Hoboken, are searching for Otto Van Wagner of Chicago who had married, robbed and deserted twenty women in different parts of the country.

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